In order to ensure the security and protection of the ancient sculptures, idols and artifacts, watch and ward staff have been deployed at centrally protected monuments and archaeological sites. The security has been further supplemented by engagement of private security guards and the State police.

Development and maintenance of cultural importance places

†742. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any new schemes for development and maintenance of various places of cultural importance in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the amount allocated to the States during the last three years by Government in this regard;

(d) whether State Governments have fully utilized the amount allocated by Centre; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI); (a) and (b) The existing Schemes are being updated from time to time. There is no new scheme under which amounts are allocated to State Governments for this purpose.

(c) to (e) Does not arise.

Smuggling of antiques

743. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the economy of Chandraketugarh, 40 kms., northwest of Kolkata in rural Bengal is booming due to highly lucrative business of smuggling priceless antiques, including ivory and gold objects and exquisite terracota art out of country;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.